THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Government has been receiving representations for provision of better and more modern cargo handling equipment at Ports. However it is not correct to say that exporters are facing great difficulties due to inefficient cargo handling equipment at the ports.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Modernisation of cargo handling facilities at ports is a continuous process. Government has taken action for replacement/modernisation of equipment in a planned manner.

Children affected by Polio in Delhi

4119. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that hundreds of children in the capital have been affected by polio due to water borne diseases, during the last two months;

(b) if so, the number of children reported as affected by polio in various hospitals in the capitals; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to provide help to them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the cases of poliomyelitis in various hospitals in the capital are given in the annexure. [*See* Appendix CXLVII, Annexure No. 141].

(c) To prevent poliomyelitis in the country Trivelant Oral Polio Vaccine is administered to children below 1 year of age under Immunization Programme. In Delhi during April 1988 to July, 1988, 52,400 infants were covered with 3 doses of Oral Polio Vaccine. As an additional measures an extra dose of O.P.V. has been given to 5,51,426 children below 5 years age during July and August, 88.

Proposal to introduce Vocational Courses by CBSE

4120. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Board of Secondary Education propose to introduce a two years vocational course in general insurance subjects throughout the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what are the names/details of the schools selected in which these courses would be introduced initially; and

(d) what is the purpose of introducing such courses ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) to (d) In order to provide employment opportunities to the students passing out of the vocational courses and also to meet the skilled manpower requirements of employers, the Central Board of Secondary Education in collaboration with the General Insurance Corporation of India has taken up a pilot project for introducing a two year vocational course in General Insurance at plus 2 level in 19 schools. The list of the selected schools is attached. (*See* below).

Under the scheme, students passing 10th standard with at least 60 per cent marks in aggregate and 60 per cent mark in English and Mathematics are eligible to join the course. Suitable relaxation is allowed for students belonging to SC/ST. The students passing out the vocational course in General Insurance with the minimum of 50 per cent marks would be appointed in the General Insurance Corporation and/or its subsidiaries as Apprentice Assistants for a period of one year. On completion of apprenticeship, they will be appointed as regular assistants. They would also be given weightage at the time of promotion.